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SUBJECT: TIMES OF INDIA ARTICLE ON US NUCLEAR EXPORT CONTROLS

SUMMARY: THE TIMES OF INDIA JULY 14 CARRIES A LENGTHY ARTICLE ("SALES OF NUCLEAR REACTORS, FUEL: US POLICY BUGBEAR") BY WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT M.V. KAMATH DISCUSSING PRIVATE AND OFFICIAL EFFORTS BEING UNDERTAKEN TO PREVENT THE TRANSFER OF NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY TO THIRD-WORLD COUNTRIES, ESPECIALLY INDIA. KAMATH REACHES THE SOMEWHAT CONTRADICTORY CONCLUSION THAT "AN EFFECTIVE US EMBARGO POLICY IS A CHIMERA" BUT THE CHALLENGE MUST NONETHELESS BE FACED BY THESE COUNTRIES AS WELL AS INDIA, "AGAINST WHOM AFTER ALL MUCH OF THE CURRENT INVECTIVE AND MANEUVERING IS DIRECTED." SENATOR RIBICOFF COMES IN FOR SPECIAL CRITICISM BECAUSE OF "HIS EXTREME VIEWS." END SUMMARY.

". TIMES OF INDIA CORRESPONDENT KAMATH'S INITIAL POINT IS THAT DESPITE PRESSURES FROM "ENVIRONMENTALISTS, ZEALOTS AND PLAIN IDEALISTS LIKE MR. DAVID LILIENTHAL...., WORD IS QUIETLY GOING ROUND THAT AN EFFECTIVE US EMBARGO
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POLICY" WHICH WOULD BAR THE SALE OR EXPORT OF CONVENTIONAL,

ADVANCED REACTOR AND FUEL CYCLE TECHNOLOGY UNTIL MORE SAFEGUARD INSTITUTIONS HAVE BEEN CREATED IS "A CHIMERA AND THE LESS IT IS ADVOCATED THE BETTER". THIS HAS NOT PREVENTED "CONCERNED MEN LIKE SENATOR ABRAHAM RIBICOFF", HOWEVER, FROM SEEKING LEGISLATION "TO PUT THE SCREWS ON INDIA...". KAMATH COMMENTS THAT SUCH ACTION IS CONSIDERED, IF NOT FUTILE, CERTAINLY AN EXERCISE IN LOCKING THE STABLE DOOR AFTER THE HORSE HAS RUN AWAY".

2. KAMATH THEN QUESTIONS THE ALLEGED "LOGIC OF THE SO-CALLED LIBERALS IN THE UNITED STATES TODAY...." HE EXPLAINS THAT THE "NEW IDEALISTS" BELIEVE THERE IS A DANGER IN MAKING NUCLEAR REACTOR TECHNOLOGY AVAILABLE TO THE LDCS SINCE THEY MIGHT FEEL TEMPTED TO MILITARIZE THEIR KNOW-HOW. BUT THIS BELIEF RUNS COUNTER, ACCORDING TO KAMATH, TO THE NPT WHICH GUARANTEES COUNTRIES NON-DISCRIMINATORY ACCESS TO NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES. "THE CLAMOUR TO PREVENT THE PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS IS TO ALL APPEARANCE (SIC) PRIMARILY AIMED AT INDIA", FOR THE US "HAS BEEN SELLING SUBSTANTIAL AMOUNT OF PLUTONIUM AND WEAPONS-GRADE URANIUM TO ADVANCED INDUSTRIAL NATIONS WITH NOT A BEEP FROM THE RIBICOFFS OF AMERICA." IT HAS EVEN SUPPLIED SOUTH AFRICA WITH ABOUT 200 POUNDS OF WEAPONS-GRADE URANIUM WITHOUT "A WHIMPER OF PROTEST". KAMATH ALSO ARGUES THAT ISRAEL ALREADY HAS THIRTEEN NUCLEAR BOMBS, BUT RIBICOFF HAS NOT PUBLICLY PROTESTED, SUGGESTING AN ATTITUDE ON HIS AND OTHERS' PART THAT THE INDUSTRIAL NATIONS CAN BE TRUSTED WHILE INDIA CANNOT.

3. KAMATH'S NEXT POINT IS THAT THE LDCS HAVE IN FACT NO REASON TO BE "DESPONDENT" SINCE THE US NO LONGER HAS A MONOPOLY ON EITHER REACTOR OR ENRICHMENT TECHNOLOGY AND OTHER COUNTRIES ARE ABLE AND ONLY TOO GLAD TO EXPORT SUCH TECHNOLOGY. WITH REGARDS TO REACTORS, KAMATH SAYS THAT THE FIRMS OF FRAMATOME (FRENCH), KRAFTWERK UNION (GERMAN), AND ASEA-ATOM (SWEDISH) ARE IN A POSITION TO DELIVER THE SYSTEMS AND "IT IS UNLIKELY THAT THEY WILL BOW DOWN TO AMERICAN PRESSURE." ACCORDINGLY "THE THREAT OF CERTAIN AMERICAN LEGISLATORS TO CHOKE OFF THE SUPPLY OF NUCLEAR KNOW-HOW TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IF THEY

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DO NOT SIGN THE NPT IS AN EMPTY ONE AND SHOULD BE TREATED AS SUCH". WITH REGARD TO ENRICHMENT TECHNOLOGY, KAMATH CONCEDES - IN CONTRADICTION TO HIS EARLIER STATEMENT - THERE IS A "REAL PROBLEM". AFTER DESCRIBING ERDA'S VIRTUAL MONOPOLY OF THE NON-COMMUNIST WORLD'S COMMERCIAL ENRICHMENT CAPACITY, KAMATH OPTIMISTICALLY REPORTS NONETHELESS THAT "OTHER COUNTRIES ARE CATCHING UP" AND THAT TWO INTERNATIONAL CONSORTIA EURODIF AND URENCO ARE EXPECTED TO CONTRIBUTE

TO THE END OF THE US MONOPOLY. MOREOVER, "IN ANY EVENT FOR ENRICHMENT TECHNOLOGY OR SERVICES A COUNTRY WITH A REACTOR COULD GO TO FRANCE, GERMANY, BRITAIN AND PERHAPS EVEN JAPAN AND BELGIUM". KAMATH SAYS IT IS "THIS FEAR" WHICH HAS CAUSED THE US TO SEEK THE COOPERATION OF THE RICH COUNTRIES IN DEVELOPING A CONSENSUS IN FAVOR OF SANCTIONS AGAINST NATIONS OPERATING NUCLEAR PROGRAMS "OUTSIDE THEIR CIRCLE." KAMATH CITES RIBICOFF AS DESIRING NOT ONLY NUCLEAR TRADE BUT ALSO GENERAL COMMERCIAL EMBARGOES IMPOSED AGAINST SUCH NATIONS.

4. AT THE CONCLUSION KAMATH POINTS OUT THAT SENATOR RIBICOFF'S "EXTREME VIEWS" ARE NOT NECESSARILY ACCEPTABLE TO CONGRESS OR EVEN TO THE US NUCLEAR INDUSTRY "WHICH HAS SUNK BILLIONS OF DOLLARS" INTO THE FIELD AND EXPECTS FAIR RETURNS. MOREOVER, HE DOES NOT SPEAK FOR THE FORD ADMINISTRATION. THE ARTICLE CONCLUDES AS FOLLOWS:

"IT IS ALWAYS POSSIBLE - AND THIS MUST BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT - THAT THE RICH INDUSTRIAL NATIONS WILL IN THE END GANG TOGETHER TO KEEP NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY OUT OF REACH OF THE ASPIRING DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. THE LATTER WILL THEN HAVE NO OTHER ALTERNATIVE BUT TO FALL BACK ON THEIR OWN DEVICES, EVEN AS CHINA DID. IT IS THE KIND OF CHALLENGE THAT INDIA - AGAINST WHOM, AFTER ALL, MUCH OF THE CURRENT INVECTIVE AND MANEUVERING IS DIRECTED - WILL HAVE TO FACE."SAXBE

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